Airplanes

By the early 1920’s airplanes were much more reliable and capable of flying longer distances and carrying heavier loads. The increased capabilities of 1920’s planes also created the opportunity for daring men and women aviators to break and set aviation speed and distance records. The earliest commercial freight services were mainly mail deliveries. Continual developments in the aviation industry over the first decade of powered flight led to increasing use of metal parts and panels. People from WW1 would travel to small towns showing off their flying skills as well as taking passengers for rides. In 1927 an airport terminal in the form of a waiting-room and ticket office for airplane passengers came about. By 1929 a few principal airports had passenger terminals with comfortable waiting rooms, but most of the existing airports were nothing more than open fields. Airplanes captured the imagination of the people who loved the flying machines. Pilots would be treated like movie stars after they had their epic flights.

Amelia Earhart began her first flying lessons with Neta Snook. She broke the women’s altitude record when she rose 14,000 feet above ground. Amelia was also the first women to fly across the Atlantic in 20 hours and 40 minutes. Then later on she did it again in only 14 hours and 56 minutes. She bought many planes, published books, was an official for the National Aeronautic Association, and she even set speed records of 181.18 mph over a 3k course. She was the first woman to fly solo from coast to coast and she set woman’s nonstop transcontinental speed record flying 2,447.8 miles in 19 hours and 5 minutes. She had many accomplishments, but then finally she disappeared in her flight around the world that she started in June 1937. Lthough other pilots had crossed the Atlantic before him, Charles A. Linderbergh was the first to complete a nonstop flight alone across the Atlantic.